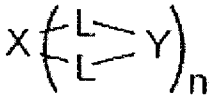
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

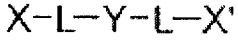
LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A prodrug of the general Formula (I), (II) or (III):

(I)



(II)



(III)

in which

X is a tobramycin moiety;

X' is a ~~pharmaceutically active~~ tobramycin moiety;

L is a linker group is attached to one or more of the hydroxyl or amine groups of the tobramycin moiety, and is selected from esters, amides, ureas, thioureas, imines, acetals, ethers, phosphates, phosphate esters or diesters, thioesters, oximes and hydrazones;

Y is a pharmacokinetic regulator selected from a hydrophobic moiety or a hydrophilic moiety, wherein the hydrophobic moiety is selected from an optionally substituted straight chain,

branched and/or cyclic saturated unsaturated hydrocarbon, and wherein the hydrophilic moiety is selected from oligonucleotides up to 20 nucleotides in length, peptides up to 20 amino acids in length, peptide mimics, carbohydrates, oligosaccharides and derivatives thereof; ~~and~~

n is an integer of 1 or greater

or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative or salt thereof.

2-6. (canceled).

7. (currently amended) ~~A~~The prodrug according to claim ~~6~~1, wherein the linker group is selected from the group consisting of an ester, amide, oxime and phosphate.

8. (currently amended): ~~A~~The prodrug according claim ~~2~~1, wherein the linker group is an ester.

9. (currently amended): ~~A~~The prodrug according to claim 1, wherein the pharmacokinetic regulator Y is a hydrophobic ~~or hydrophilic~~ moiety selected from an optionally substituted straight chain, branched and/or cyclic saturated or unsaturated hydrocarbon.

10. (canceled).

11. (currently amended): ~~A~~The prodrug according to claim ~~10~~9, wherein the hydrophobic moiety is an optionally substituted alkyl or optionally substituted alkenyl having

1 to 24 carbon atoms which is optionally interrupted with oxygen or nitrogen; an optionally substituted aryl; or an optionally substituted heterocyclyl.

12. (currently amended): ~~A~~The prodrug according to claim 11, wherein the optionally substituted alkyl or the optionally substituted alkenyl is an optionally substituted C_{1-20} alkyl or optionally substituted C_{2-20} alkenyl which is optionally interrupted with O, C=O, NH, optionally substituted aryl or optionally substituted heterocyclyl and optionally substituted with carboxyl, optionally substituted C_{1-6} alkyl, amino or hydroxyl.

13. (currently amended): ~~A~~The prodrug according to claim 11, wherein the optionally substituted aryl is an optionally substituted phenyl or optionally substituted biphenyl.

14. (currently amended): ~~A~~The prodrug according to claim 11, wherein the optionally substituted heterocyclyl is a 5- or 6-membered nitrogen containing heterocyclic group.

15. (currently amended): ~~A~~The prodrug according to claim 14, wherein the heterocyclic group is selected from the group consisting of pyridyl, indolyl, indazolyl, 2,3-dihydro-1H-indolyl, furanyl, isoxazolyl, pyrazolyl and thiofuranyl.

16. (currently amended): ~~A~~The prodrug according to claim 13, wherein the optional substituents on the phenyl or heterocyclyl are selected from the group consisting of halo, C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{1-4} alkoxy, hydroxy and OCF_3.

17. (currently amended): ~~A~~The prodrug according to claim ~~9~~1, wherein the pharmacokinetic regulator Y is a hydrophilic moiety ~~is~~ selected from the group consisting of oligonucleotides up to 20 nucleotides in length, peptides up to 20 amino acids in length, peptide mimics, carbohydrates, oligosaccharides and derivatives thereof.

18. (previously presented): A method for the preparation of the prodrug of Claim 1 comprising the steps of:

(a) optionally protecting the moieties X and/or X' and/or the linker group which is attached to the optionally protected pharmacokinetic regulator Y;

(b) reacting the optionally protected moieties X and/or X' and the optionally protected linker group L attached to the optionally protected pharmacokinetic regulator Y; and

(c) if necessary, removing the protecting groups of the moieties X and/or X', the linker L and the pharmacokinetic regulator Y.

19. (previously presented): A pharmaceutical formulation comprising the prodrug of claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or derivative thereof, together with one or more pharmaceutically acceptable carriers.

20. (currently amended): ~~A~~The pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 19, which further comprises one or more other therapeutic ~~and/or prophylactic~~ ingredients.

21. (currently amended): ~~A~~The pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 20, wherein the other therapeutic ~~and/or prophylactic~~ ingredients is an antimicrobial or antiinfective agent.

22. (currently amended): ~~A~~The pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 21, wherein the antiinfective agent is an antibacterial agent.

23. (currently amended): ~~A~~The pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 22, wherein the antibacterial agent is effective to treat respiratory infections.

24. (currently amended): ~~A~~The pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 22, wherein the antibacterial agent is a combination selected from the group consisting of trimethoprim and sulfonamide; bacitracin and polymyxin B-neomycin; imipenem and fluoroquinolone; and ~~beta-lactam~~ beta-lactam and aminoglycosides.

25. (previously presented): An inhaler which comprises a prodrug of claim 1.

26. (currently amended): ~~An~~The inhaler according to claim 25, wherein said inhaler is adapted for oral administration as a free-flow powder.

27. (currently amended): ~~An~~The inhaler according to claim 25, wherein said inhaler is a metered dose aerosol inhaler.

28. (currently amended): A method for ~~the prevention and/or~~ treatment of a ~~microbial~~ bacterial infection comprising the step of administration to a subject in need thereof of an effective amount of the prodrug of claim 1.

29. (canceled).

30. (currently amended): ~~A~~The method according to claim ~~29~~28, wherein the infection is a Gram Negative or Gram Positive infection.

31. (currently amended): ~~A~~The method according to claim 30, wherein the bacterial infection is associated with the respiratory tract, urinary tract or GI tract or a systemic infection caused by enteric bacteria.

32. (currently amended): ~~A~~The method according to claim 28, wherein the administration is to the respiratory tract by inhalation, insufflation or intranasally or a combination thereof.

33-36. (canceled).

37. (previously presented): A method for the detection of a microbial infection which comprises the step of contacting the prodrug of claim 1 with a sample suspected of containing the microorganism.

38-105. (canceled).